(b) The Commission has urged the Government of India to act with speed and determination to re-write the laws regarding child labour and acting with the State Governments, set a time frame to achieve free and compulsory education for the children of the country.

Employment exchanges

†3103. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some districts in the country where the employment exchanges are not functioning;

(b) if so, the name of such districts, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have set a target to open employment exchanges in all district Headquarters and the cities having population over one lakh; and

(d) if so, by when, these employment exchanges would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) There are 943 Employment Exchanges in the country as on March, 2003. Employment Exchanges function under the financial and administrative control of the State/Union Territory Governments. The respective State/Union Territory Governments decide opening or closing of Employment Exchanges keeping in view the local need of various regions of the State.

Bonded girl labourers in A.P.

3104. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether during a survey girls were found engaged as bonded labour in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether this illegal practice has been going on since long;

(c) whether around 4,50,000 children in the age group of 6—14 years are employed in cotton seed fields in the country of which Andhra Pradesh alone account for 2,47,800; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to free them from bonded labour and send them to schools under the new legislative provisions of free education?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.